

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 01430 250922Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 NSC-05 XMB-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
EB-08 /094 W

-----110985 251401Z /75

R 250912Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8198

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 01430

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, US
SUBJECT: EXCESS PROPERTY FOR MALTA

REFS: A) STATE 126507, B) 77 VALLETTA 0943,
- C) 77 STATE 081466, D) 77 STATE 067258

1. WE NEED SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A CONTINGENCY
BASIS IN CONNECTION WITH GOM INTEREST IN GETTING EQUIP-
MENT UNDER EXCESS PROPERTY (EP) PROGRAM FOR MARSAXLOKK.

2. GOM FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA TOLD AMBASSADOR ON MAY 22
THAT SPECIFIC LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR MARSAXLOKK PROJECT
THAT GOM SEEKS TO OBTAIN THROUGH THE EP PROGRAM WOULD BE
PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY IN "THREE OR FOUR DAYS".
ASSUMING THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE ITEMS LISTED BY THE
MALTESE ARE OR COULD BE LOCATED IN EP INVENTORIES (A
PROSPECT WE RECOGNIZE AS NOT BRIGHT) VARIOUS QUESTIONS
ARISE AS TO THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN, ASSUMING THAT A
DECISION TO PROCEED IS MADE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
BEFORE ANY EP COULD BE RESERVED BY THE GOM, OR TRANS-
FERRED TO THEM, AID WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE THAT MALTA
IS ELIGIBLE TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN PROPERTY. WE FURTHER
UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A DETERMINATION WOULD HAVE TO BE
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PAGE 02 VALLET 01430 250922Z

SUPPORTED BY A LIST OF PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS BY FSG, AN
ESTIMATE (CEILING) OF TOTAL ORIGINAL ACQUISITION COST,
AND A STATEMENT ON PROPERTY END USE. IN SPRING, 1977,
DEPARTMENT (REFS C AND D) INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CON-
SIDER GOM REQUEST TO PURCHASE CERTAIN EP AND LATER MADE
EFFORTS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY OF THE ITEMS IDENTIFIED
BY THE GOM WERE AVAILABLE IN EP INVENTORIES, WHICH LED

US TO BELIEVE THAT, SHOULD SUCH REQUESTED ITEMS BE IDENTIFIED, OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY WOULD BE RELATIVELY RAPID AND PRESENT NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES. POST WOULD APPRECIATE VERIFICATION THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT.

3. ABELA ALSO INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT MALTESE CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, AGIUS, HAS BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH EP DIVISION IN NEW CUMBERLAND (RUTTER) AND, WITH THEIR ASSISTANCE, HAS IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF (13) CATERPILLER D7E BULLDOZERS AS WELL AS SEVERAL CONCRETE MIXERS WHICH THE GOM REPORTEDLY WISHES TO ACQUIRE UNDER THE EP PROGRAM. PROVIDED FOREGOING IS ACCURATE, WOULD GOM BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SUCH ITEMS (OR EVEN PUT A "HOLD" ON THEM) FROM EP INVENTORIES WITHOUT THE DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY REFERRED TO ABOVE? LAINGEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET01430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780221-0111
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780517/aaaaanxw.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc6e3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 126507, 77 VALLETTA 943
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2559713
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCESS PROPERTY FOR MALTA
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc6e3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014